THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) While it is known that bio-fuel has been prepared in USA using grains like wheat, bajra, maize, soyabeen etc. and while Government are aware of the news item published in Lokmat edition of 3rd February 2003, the cost details of preparation of bio-fuels from grains in USA are not known.

(b) IOC (R&D) has conducted the studies to produce bio-diesel from various vegetable oils (edible and non-edible) on bench scale & pilot plant scale and has tested their suitability as a diesel component.

Mangalore-Hassan-Bangalore pipeline project

728. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the laying of the Mangalore-Hassan-Bangalore LPG pipeline work;

(b) if so, what is the present status of the work;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the above work;

(d) whether Government are aware that a large number of LPG tanker accidents are taking place every day on Mangalore-Bangalore route; and

(e) if so, whether Government would take the above work on priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Such projects are taken up on the basis of economic viability and technical feasibility of the project.

Auction of new blocks by ONGC

729. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of auction of new exploration blocks for Crude and Natural gas by ONGC is on;

(b) if so, what are the conditions attached thereto; and

(c) whether production sharing is a pre-condition to such licences and if so, the rates on which the explorer and the ONGC will share the yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) At present, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) does not offer any new exploration blocks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Creation of clean energy corridor

730. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has submitted a plan to Government for creating a clean energy corridor;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether GAIL has expressed reservation about 'right of use'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has submitted proposal to the Government for creating "the Green Quadrilateral — A National Gas Grid as a Clean Energy Corridor". GAIL propose to create nation wide pipeline network for transportation of natural gas connecting various production sources to major consuming centers in different parts of the country.

(c) Yes, Sir. GAIL has sought formulation of gas pipeline policy suggesting nomination of GAIL as the strategic gas pipeline infrastructure developer alongwith the first right to refusal to lay pipelines.

At present permission is accorded for Right of Use (RoU) for acquisition of land under Petroleum and Mineral Pipeline (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962. Under the Act there is no provision for nominating any company as strategic gas pipeline developer or granting exclusive right to any company for any particular area.